

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /068 W  
-----081549Z 073051 /44

R 072237Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2507  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SANJOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: SHUM, US, NU  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: PRESS COVERAGE

SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS RE NICARAGUAN  
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE RAISED BY RIDING ARTICLES IN NEW YORK TIMES.  
IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT CENSORSHIP IS NOT BEING USED TO KEEP PUBLIC  
IN THE DARK REGARDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY

1. GON ORGAN, NOVEDADES, FRONTPAGE ON MARCH 5 AMB. SEVILLA  
SACASA'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE BASED ON UPI REPORT OF HIS  
COMMENTS FOLLOWING MEETING. IN AN EDITORIAL IN SAME EDITION RIDING  
WAS TAKEN TO TASK FOR YELLOW JOURNALISM PLAYING UP TO U.S. MAN-IN-  
THE STREETS CONCEPT OF "BANANA REPUBLICS". EDITORIAL SAYS RIDING  
SAID NOTHING NEW, I.E., THAT HASN'T BEEN SAID BY JACK ANDERSON,  
THE CARDENALS (NICARAGUAN PRIESTS, ERNESTO AND FERNANDO CARDENAL,  
OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER LA PRENSA AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST-LINING  
COHORTS (E.G. HONDURAN RECTOR OF UNAH REINA AND CORRALES OF COSTA  
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RICA). THESE PERSONS ARE SIAD TO NOT CARE ABOUT GON EFFORTS TO  
IMPROVE CONDITONS OF NICARAGUAN PEOPLE AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO  
INTERFERE WITH GON CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GOALS OF WELL-  
BEING AND HAPPINESS. ANOTHER ARTICLE REFERRING TO "SCOTCH AND  
SODA" CORRESPONDENTS DESCRIBES HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE NEW INTERVEN-  
TIONIST "BIG STICK" POLICY BEING URGED BY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT KNOW  
OR UNDERSTAND LOCAL REALITIES (SEE USIS MANAGUA TRANSLATION).

2. OPPOSITION LA PRENSA ON MARCH 5 FRONT PAGES STORY BASED ON  
ERRONEOUS AP REPORT THAT SEVILLA SACASA WAS CALLED IN BY SECTY. VANCE  
IN THE MIDST OF GROWING INDICATIONS OF CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA.

3. MARCH 6 NOVEDADES REFERS TO "ROUTINE" MEETING OF PRESIDENT  
WITH SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS DURING WHICH HE INFORMED THEM  
REGARDING THE DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN BEING WAGED AGAINST THE GON  
AND IN PARTICULAR AGAINST THE NATIONAL GUARD. THE ARTICLE STATES HE  
INFORMED THE COMMANDERS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF "MAINTAINING THE  
GUARANTEES, PEACE AND TRANQUILITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WITHIN THE  
CONSTITUTED LAWS."

4. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT CENSORSHIP HAS NOT BEEN USED TO  
ELIMINATE COVERAGE OF EXTERNAL CRITICISM OF GON HUMAN RIGHTS  
POLICY AS OPPOSED TO INTERNAL CRITICISM OF INTERNAL CRITICISM  
(E.G.N PUBLICATION OF THE BISHOP'S PASTORAL MESSAGE) IS INTERES-  
TING. THE GON CAN CHARACTERIZE RIDING OR OR OTHER FOREIGNERS AS  
UNAWARE OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND ANTI-NICARAGUAN. THE SAME CHARATERI-  
ZATION COULD NOT BE USED AGAINST WELL-KNOWN NICARAGUAN CRITICS OF  
THE GOVERNMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS: PRESS COVERAGE SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS RE NICARAGUAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE RAISED BY RIDING ARTICLES IN NE  
**TAGS:** SHUM, US, NU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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